

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 18-23, 75-80, and 94-99 without prejudice. Applicants have added new claims 100-108, which are of substantially similar scope to now canceled claims 6, 23, or 80. Therefore, no new matter has been added by the addition of these new claims. Claims 25-41, 81-85, 89-91, 93, and 100-108 are now pending.

The objection to claims 18 and 98 for misspelling the word “least” in the recited phrase “at lease” is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 18 and 98.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7, and 75-79 for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 5,776,889 to Wei et al. (“Wei ‘889”) is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-5, 7, and 75-79.

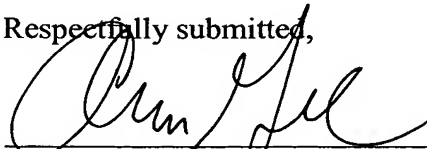
The provisional rejection of claims 1-5 and 7 for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/835,684 to Wei et al. is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-5 and 7.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 18-22, 75-79, and 97-99 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Wei ‘889 in view of Laurie et al., *Commercial Flower Forcing: The Fundamentals and Their Practical Application to the Culture of Greenhouse Crops*, pp. 258-259 (1969) is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-5, 7, 18-22, 75-79, and 97-99.

The objection to claims 6, 23, and 80 for depending from a rejected base claim is respectfully traversed in view of the cancellation of claims 6, 23, and 80.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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